

Communication Matters

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Past issues of Communication Matters are posted on the **E-Learn Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Center**. Information or news related to Deaf or Hard of Hearing services may be forwarded to Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net. *Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily the views of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services.*



Gallaudet Bridge Program

July 22 - August 20, 2004

The Bridge Program is a 4-week live-in learning program that consists of academic, social and cultural activities designed to prepare incoming first year students for the demands of university life. Scholarships are available.

For more information see FYE.Gallaudet.edu or contact Andrew.Brinks@gallaudet.edu

New Kettering Scholarship

The aim of the Kettering Ability scholarship is to encourage more people with disabilities to major in engineering or business. The recipient of the scholarship will receive \$5000 if they meet the school's academic and co-op qualifications. Students must also be considered disabled according to the ADA.

Contact Jack Stock at Kettering University (810-762-7873) for additional information.

For more on Kettering University see: www.kettering.edu/

Captioned Media Program

Free Loan Videos

The Captioned Media Program (CMP) provides free-loan, open-captioned videos to deaf and hard of hearing people. More than 4,000 titles are available including classic movies, educational videos and special-interest videos. Some Spanish-language captioned media is also available.

For more information see: www.cfv.org/



National Conference

For people with hearing loss and professionals!

June 10-13, 2004

Omaha, Nebraska



This year's Self Help for Hard of Hearing People's (SHHH) conference includes dozens of workshops and training sessions. Workshop topics include: legal rights, working with doctors, the newest hearing aids, and cochlear implants. There are also many fun social events - and it's all 100% accessible!

Learn more and register at www.hearingloss.org

2004 DODHH Silent Retreat

July 16-18, 2004

\$150 for 2 nights, 4 meals & more!



Since 1987, the annual Silent Retreat has provided an opportunity for those with basic American Sign Language (ASL) skills to be immersed in Deaf culture. The retreat is held in Roscommon, Michigan and offers a variety of activities in a casual, relaxed setting.

Any one, 18 years or older, with the equivalent of one or two years of ASL college courses will find this a unique and fun way to improve ASL skills.

Contact the Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DODHH) for more information.

Phone: 877-499-6232

E-mail: dodhh@michigan.gov

www.mcddc-dodhh.org



MADHS Hearing Aid Distribution Program

The Hearing Aid Distribution Program may be a resource for people who are not eligible for vocational rehabilitation. Those who need hearing aids, but are unable to afford them, may apply to receive prescribed, reconditioned hearing aids through a collaborative program offered by Lions Clubs of Michigan and Michigan Association for Deaf, Hearing and Speech Services (MADHS).

The Program

MADHS and Michigan's Lions Clubs receive donations of used hearing aids from people who no longer need them. The used hearing aids are delivered to a hearing aid laboratory. In return, the laboratory provides a monetary credit for each used hearing aid received. A "withdrawal" from this credit account is made when an order for a hearing aid comes from a participating Lions Club.

Application

Eligible applicants must meet income guidelines or be on a public assistance program. Obtain a "Hearing Aid Financial Assistance" application from MADHS to apply for this program. When MADHS receives the completed form, it is forwarded to the Lions Hearing and Speech Committee Chairperson or one of the 11 Lions Districts.

If the person is eligible, the Local Lions arrange for an audiological screening at a reasonable cost. The audiogram is forwarded to the laboratory where the hearing aid is made. A hearing aid is then constructed, based on the audiogram, that is tuned to the persons' specific hearing loss. The hearing professional fits and adjusts the hearing aid. Depending on the number of donated aids and supporting funds, most people receive a hearing aid within about 2 months.

Donate Hearing Aids

The hearing aid distribution program depends on the donation of used hearing aids. If you know of someone who is getting new hearing aids, suggest that the old hearing aids be donated to this program. To donate hearing aids contact your local Lions Club or MADHS. Some Post Offices have hearing aid donation boxes.

MADHS TTY Distribution Program



Any deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired individual in Michigan, who meets financial criteria and is certified as hearing or speech impaired, may be eligible to obtain a free TTY from MADHS.

This program is made available through a collaborative program with Lions Clubs throughout Michigan.

Applicants should complete an application, available from MADHS. This application will be reviewed and information verified. The approved application is then forwarded to the Lions Club in the applicant's district.

Michigan Association for Deaf, Hearing, and Speech

2929 Covington Court, Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48912-4939
(800) YOUR-EAR or
yourear@msu.edu

Funding for TTY's is sought from local District Lions Clubs and/or Service Foundations. Other sources are utilized when available. When funding is secured, MADHS is notified and a new TTY is ordered. MADHS sends the TTY to the applicant

and offers training and orientation if desired.

Depending on funding availability, there is usually a waiting period (sometimes six months to a year). Contributions to the TTY fund will speed the process and may be forwarded to MADHS for the benefit of the program.